MID-HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM

MINUTES of the ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Friday, October 21, 2022 | Online

President Swierat called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

1. **ROLL CALL**
   a. Trustees Present: Stuart Auchincloss, Peter Carey, Kenneth Goldberg, Priscilla Goldfarb, Rajene Hardeman, Debra Klein, Jill Leinung, Alexandra Prince, Barry Ramage, Lynne Ridgeway, Janet Schnitzer, Ric Swierat, Mary Linda Todd, Mark Wilson
   b. Staff Present: Nina Acosta, Rebekkah Smith Aldrich, Kathryn Brew, Saran Camara, Laura Crisci, Kerstin Cruger, Gerry Formby, Amy Kendel, Laurie Shedrick, Alexa Stroh
   c. Others Present (list attached to file)

2. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
   Board President Swierat welcomed attendees to the 63rd Annual Membership Meeting of the Board of Trustees and introduced the 2022 Board of the Mid-Hudson Library System and the 2022 leadership of the MHLS Directors Association. Swierat thanked departing MHLS trustees, Priscilla Goldfarb and Lynne Ridgeway for their years of dedicated service.

3. **ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS**
   Mr. Wilson, Chair of the MHLS Nominations and Elections Committee conducted the election of three trustees to the MHLS Board.

   From Dutchess County: Rajene Hardeman was nominated for a second five-year term by Kristin Salierno, Director of the Howland Public Library, and seconded by Mary De Bellis, Director of the LaGrange Association Library. Rajene Hardeman's nomination was unanimously approved at the Dutchess County Directors Association's meeting held on June 17th, 2022.

   From Putnam County: George Joiner was nominated for a five-year term by Stephanie Harrison, Director of the Patterson Library, seconded by Gina Loprinzo, Director of the Brewster Public Library. George Joiner's nomination was approved at the Putnam County Library Association meeting held on June 21, 2022.

   From Ulster County: Heather Blakely was nominated for a five-year term by Kristen Campbell, Director of the Hurley Library, seconded by Katie Scott-Childress, Director of the Rosendale Library. Heather Blakely's nomination was approved at the Ulster County Library Association meeting held on June 21st, 2022.

   There being no additional candidates nominated, Mr. Wilson declared the election of Rajene Hardeman, George Joiner, and Heather Blakely for 5-year terms commencing on January 1, 2023.

4. **REPORT OF THE BOARD PRESIDENT**
   Board President Swierat's report provided an overview of the board's five goals for 2022:
   - Strengthening the MHLS board members' outreach to local boards and county-based associations.
   - Strengthening and supporting MHLS board education to build and support the skills and competencies to guide their work.

- Focusing on the financial stability of MHLS to ensure adequate support for local libraries.
- Building internal knowledge and initiatives to ensure that the values of equity, diversity, and inclusion are present in the organization's practices.
- Completing the requirements for the Sustainable Library Certification Program as a demonstration of the commitment of MHLS to environmental sustainability, social equity, and economic feasibility.

5. **REPORT OF THE TREASURER**

Treasurer Mark Wilson provided a report on the fiscal standing of the organization including sharing the results of the 2022 audit of MHLS by Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill (STAC) Certified Public Accountants. The System's board, staff and CPAs have worked together to ensure our organization is managing its revenue and expenditures well and there were no adverse findings from the 2021 audit to report. Treasurer Wilson noted the evolution of the board's COVID-19 Response & Recover Working Group to the Government & Community Relations Working Group which reports to the board's Finance Committee. This working group is focused on advocacy with legislators, outreach to grant funders, and creating of talking points that are clear and in no way take away from the value of local libraries as we work to raise the profile of the system in the Hudson Valley. Treasurer Wilson thanked the MHLS staff, board and the MHLS Directors Association (DA) for their cooperative efforts to ensure that our System is financially sound and better prepared for future economic shocks.

6. **REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Executive Director Aldrich provided:

a. An announcement on the promotion of Isaac Barbee to the full-time IT Support Engineer position.
b. An introduction to the five new MHLS staff members who have joined the organization in the past year.
c. A review of System efforts over the course of 2022 including the everyday success of MHLS staff in supporting member library operations; advances on the topic of sustainable funding for member libraries; the work of the board and staff on the topics of equity, diversity, and inclusion; the efforts of the staff to close the digital divide and focus on digital equity and inclusion in our communities; key collaborations in the library community and the Hudson Valley to enhance System offerings to member libraries including the Trustee Handbook Book Club, a reciprocal lending agreement with the Upper Hudson Library System, and the second year of The Library of Local Project;
d. A preview of 2023 areas of focus including the transition to the next generation online catalog; the launch of a learning management system that will enable member library staff and trustees to take training online, at their convenience and be awarded attendance certificates; and the return of the Trustee Handbook Book Club;
e. A presentation of "Outstanding Accomplishments" including libraries who opened new facilities: Poughkeepsie Public Library District's new Sadie Peterson Delaney Branch and the Pleasant Valley Free Library; those that passed major building referenda: Kingston, Mahopac, and Woodstock; and the first library in the system to become certified under the Sustainable Library Certification Program: Highland; and
f. An announcement that MHLS is the first public library system in the country to be certified under the Sustainable Library Certification Program.

7. **ADJOURNMENT OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

At 10:54am, President Swierat adjourned the Business portion of the 63rd Annual Membership Meeting.

8. **KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Ms. Aldrich introduced Michele Stricker, Deputy State Librarian for Lifelong Learning at the New Jersey State

Library. The speaker provided a presentation entitled, "From Disaster Planning to Community Resilience: The Long and Short of It" which focused attention on the importance of libraries having adequate disaster preparedness documentation and training place and their contributions to building community resilience in light of the predicted increase in severe weather events in our region.

Respectfully submitted by Stuart Auchincloss, Secretary

Stuart Auchincloss

Approved on December 13, 2022 by the MHLS Board of Trustees